

Response to Office Action
Mailed June 19, 2003
Parent Application No.: 09/530,723

REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for his review of this application and consideration of these remarks. The Office Action rejected Claims 1, 4, 8, 9, 14, and 17 as allegedly indefinite under 35 U.S.C. Section 112, second paragraph. These claims have been amended. In addition, the other pending claims have been amended. These amendments, however, are made to correct clerical errors, or to broaden the claims. These amendments have not been made to overcome the art cited in the Office Action.

The Office Action rejected all of the claims as allegedly anticipated under 35 U.S.C. Section 102(e) by the patent to Culli et al., United States Patent No. 6,205,214. This rejection is respectfully traversed. *Culli et al.* fails to teach or suggest the subject matter of the pending claims.

Summary of Claim 1

Claim 1 includes a system with a switch, coupled to a resold line, which routes a call to a service switching point (SSP). The SSP, responsive to a trigger, queries a service control point (SCP), which responds to the SSP with routing instructions based upon resold line routing information identifying a location specified by the carrier for handling the call.

The Office Action's Flawed Analysis

The Office Action erroneously alleges Claims 1-2, 9-14, 18, and 20 are anticipated by *Culli et al.* The Office Action states:

Culli et al. also teach system operation as follows: A call from a switch, read as the claimed "switch" or "first network element" or service switching point (SSP) 31 read as the claimed "service switching point" or "second network element" is routed to SSP 34, wherein a trigger is provided to cause SSP 31 to query service control point (ISCP/SCP) 30 read as the claimed "service control point" or "third network element". SCP receives the query and provides routing information and instructions to SSP 31 based on the resold line routing information, i.e., the local

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service provider's routing preferences, for connecting the call to SSP 34. The local service provider's routing preferences are defined/stored in location database of SCP 30, which identifies a location /route for completing the call.

Office Action, p. 3.

Respectfully, the basis of the rejection under Section 102 (e) is unsupportable from the quoted portion of the Office Action for at least the reasons that follow:

(1) *Culli et al.* does not refer to an SSP marked as "31" or any other element that routes a call from a switch to an SSP or an SSP to an SSP as set forth in the claims.

(2) Further, there is confusion in the Office Action's analysis between the missing SSP "31" and SSP "34". For example, the quote from the Office Action states: "A call from a switch ... is routed to SSP 34, wherein a trigger is provided to cause SSP 31 to query service control point...." But how can a trigger in SSP 34 cause the non-existent SSP 31 to query a service control point? A trigger in an SSP does not cause another SSP to launch a query to an SCP. Further, *Culli et al.* does not support the quote. Even if there would have been an SSP 31, a trigger set in SSP 34 cannot cause another SSP to query a service control point. Moreover, the quote does not demonstrate that *Culli et al.* anticipates or suggests the claimed subject matter.

(3) The quote from the Office Action states: "SCP receives the query and provides routing information and instructions to SSP 31...." As noted, there is no SSP 31 in *Culli et al.* If SSP 31 is interpreted as the "switch" or "first network element" of the claims as set out earlier in the quote in the Office Action, *Culli et al.* still fails to disclose or suggest the claimed subject matter. Claims 9 and 18 do not refer to an SCP that provides instructions to the switch or first network element. Rather, Claims 9 and 18 include an SCP that provides instructions to an SSP or a second network element.

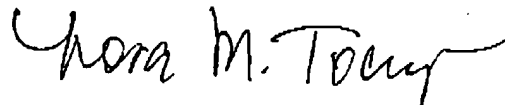
The flawed analysis in the Office Action does not support the rejection of Claims 1-2, 9-14, 18, and 20, which include the independent claims of the application. The dependent claims may be patentable for other reasons. For brevity, however, the other reasons are not set forth herein because the dependent claims depend on independent claims that have been erroneously rejected.

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Conclusion

The Patent Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider this application in light of the remarks above. If there are any issues that can be resolved via a telephone conference, the Examiner is invited to contact Nora Tocups at 404-372-1430.\

Respectfully submitted,



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